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17/11/25



REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1925

presented to the

S P I L S B Y R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L .

by

Francis J. Walker, C.B.E., M.D., L.S.Sc.

Medical Officer of Health.

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To the Spilsby Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

As your Medical Officer of Health I beg to present my annual report on the health and sanitary condition of the District for the year ending Dec. 31, 1925.

Once in every five years the Ministry of Health require the Report to be of a more comprehensive nature and that it shall deal with the progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of public health by giving (1) More extended details of the natural and social conditions of the area; (2) The general provisions of health services; (3) The Sanitary circumstances of the area; (4), The housing problem; (5), the inspection and supervision of foods; & (6) the prevalence of and control over infectious diseases.

The Report for 1925 is a "Survey" Report and will deal with these matters as outlined by the Ministry of Health.

1.) The Natural & Social Conditions of the Area.

AREA.- This has diminished since last year by 1651 acres due to the parish of Sutton on Sea having joined with Mablethorpe and Truethorpe to become an Urban District. The area now is 126,405 acres.

The POPULATION has likewise diminished. According to the census of 1921 (excluding Sutton) it was 19,889, and is now estimated by the Registrar-General to the middle of 1925 as 19,827. The number of inhabited houses is 4,983, and the number of families or separate occupiers, 5,058.

The rateable value is £151,432, and £291-17-0 represents the product of a penny rate. The whole of the District is Agricultural, more than one-half of the adult population being engaged in agricultural occupations, and one-eighth of the adult female population being employed in paid personal service. The District varies a great deal in its physical features, one part being Wold, another Marsh, and a third re-claimed Fen.

VITAL STATISTICS.- The Births were 351 and the Deaths 276.

BIRTHS:	Legitimate		Illegitimate.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
	176	161	9	95

Total Legitimate: 337.

Total Illegitimate: 14.

The Birth-rate per 1,000 population was 18.27, that for England & Wales was 18.3. The average birth-rate in this District for the last five years is 18.81

The crude unstandardized death-rate per 1,000 population was 13.91, that for England & Wales was 12.2.

The unstandardized average in this District for the last five years is 13.30. The Deaths of Infants under one year numbered 24, giving a death-rate per 1,000 births of 66.4. A similar death-rate for the whole of England & Wales is 75. No woman died in or in consequence of child-birth. The death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis is .55 and from Cancer 2.67.

The unsatisfactory item at first sight in these statistics is the crude death-rate per 1,000 population which appears 1.7 higher than that of England & Wales. But on further investigation this increase may be accounted for by a study of the two following tables, one showing the average age of the people living in this district as compared with that of all Lindsey, and the second showing the death-rate of age groups per 1,000 living at that age as compared with similar figures for England & Wales.

Age.	Lindsey.		S.R.D.	
	Males	Females.	Males.	Females.
0-4	9.7	9.2	9.2	8.5
5-9	10.0	9.4	9.9	8.8
10-14	9.8	9.5	8.9	8.8
15-19	8.8	8.6	8.3	8.0
20-24	7.6	8.1	7.3	6.9
25-29	7.2	7.8	6.2	7.0
30-34	7.0	7.5	6.5	7.2
35-39	7.3	7.5	6.7	7.4
40-44	6.8	6.7	6.2	6.5
45-49	6.2	5.9	6.1	5.3
50-54	5.3	5.0	5.3	5.5
55-59	4.4	4.2	5.0	4.8
60-64	3.5	3.5	4.3	4.2
65-69	2.8	2.8	3.7	3.7
70-74	1.8	2.0	2.6	2.7
75-79	1.1	1.3	2.2	1.5
80-84	0.5	0.7	1.1	1.4
85-89	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3
90-94	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
95 & upwards	0.0.	0.0	0.0	0.0

Deaths of persons per 1,000 living at subjoined ages:

	65-74	75-84	85 & up.
England & Wales	53.0	124.5	256.8
S.R.D.	36.0	105.6	306.1.

The first table shows that there are more people living in this District over 60 years of age per 1,000 of the population than in the rest of Lindsey, and the second that people dying beyond the age of 85 are much in excess of the rest of England & Wales per 1,000 living. To meet these circumstances and for comparative purposes the death-rate must be corrected for age and sex distribution. To enable us to do this the Registrar-General has supplied a standardizing Factor by which the mortality rate must be multiplied to arrive at the correct death-rate. Our crude death-rate per 1,000 population is 13.91 and that of England & Wales 12.2, but when corrected

for age and sex distribution our rate is 9.84 as compared with the standardized rate for England and Wales of 10.7.

(2). The General Provisions of Health Services.

The Voluntary Hospitals to which patients are admitted from this area are the County Hospital, Lincoln, the Hospital, Boston, and the Cottage Hospitals at Alford, Skegness and Spilsby. There is also the Poor Law Infirmary at Hundleby. Hospitals provided or subsidised by the County Council are the Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Branston for Women and Children, and the Sanatoria at Lincoln, Gartby, Keeling, Westby Bridge, Boston, Kennington & Ipswich for Males. Surgical tuberculosis cases can be admitted into the Lincoln County Hospital, Lord Mayor Treloar's Cripple Hospital at Alton, Hants, the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital at Margate, Heatherwood, Fairfield, Gringley and the Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital at Gobowen near Oswestry. Arrangements have been made with the Lincoln Municipal Authority to convey and admit Small Pox Patients into their Small Pox Hospital, and with the Skegness Urban District Council to take in cases of Scarlet Fever and ~~dp~~ diphtheria from Winthorpe. The remaining infectious cases have to be treated in their own homes, often a very difficult problem and one entailing absence from school or business of the other inmates of the house. The provision of an Isolation Hospital for a combination of sanitary areas is to be desired. The subject has been considered by the County Council, but expense at present stands in the way.

There is a Tuberculosis Dispensary and a School and Eye Clinic, also a Maternity and Child Welfare centre at 2, West End Villas, Spilsby, which is opened weekly and staffed and organized by the County Council. There is also a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Friskney which meets monthly.

The general nursing arrangements are carried out in various parts of the district by the formation of District Nursing Associations. These Voluntary Associations generally comprise three or four villages under the control of a Committee who superintend the work of the Nurse. At the present time these Associations are situated at Burgh, Candlesby, East Kirkby, Friskney, Wainfleet, Willoughby & Spilsby. Many of them receive an annual subscription from the Spilsby Board of Guardians, and a part of the salary of the Nurse is paid by the County Council when she assists in Midwifery, School Inspection and at Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

The County Council has appointed two Nurses to visit cases of Measles and Whooping Cough and if necessary nurse the severe cases in their homes when no other Nurse is available. Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are visited by a special County Council Nurse, who carries out the necessary treatment. During this year one case has been nursed with a satisfactory result. There are five registered Midwives practising in the District; four are subsidised by the County Council, the other is on the staff of the Spilsby Cottage Hospital. There is no Institutional provision for unmarried mothers,

illegitimate infants and homeless children except the Poor Law Infirmary.

There is a Motor Ambulance, the property of the Joint Council of the Order of St John and the British Red Cross Society, situated at Mr. Dodds' Garage, Spilsby, and is available at any time for non-infectious cases.

The Sanitary Administration consists of a Medical Officer of Health (part time) and two Sanitary Inspectors (whole time), one living at Spilsby and the other at Burgh, the District being divided into two. These Officers also act as Sanitary Surveyors, Architects for the Housing scheme, and collectors of rents from the Council houses tenants.

GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE:

	<u>Date came into force.</u>
Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 (parts of)	6th Oct., 1892.
Public Health (Buildings in Streets) Act 1888.	28th July, 1904.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 (parts of)	13th Jan., 1911.
do do	29th Dec., 1921.
do do	20th May, 1924.

SPECIAL LOCAL ORDERS WITH RESPECT TO:

House Refuse	12th Mar., 1881.
Slaughter-houses	12th Dec., 1890.
Cleansing & Watering of Streets	5th Oct., 1901.
Expenses of Local Authority	10th Jan., 1884.
Cemeteries (Spilsby)	25th Nov., 1881.
(Friskney)	8th Jul., 1901.
Obstructions & Nuisances in Streets	20th July, 1925.
Offensive trades	30th Sept., 1925.

BYE-LAWS IN FORCE WITH RESPECT TO:

New Buildings	24th Oct., 1913.
New Streets	15th Dec. 1914.
Cleansing of Footways & Pavements)	21st Mar., 1879.
Removal of House Refuse)	6th Jan., 1880.
Removal of Nuisances)	7th Aug., 1888.
Removal of Nuisances)	21st Mar., 1879.
Removal of Nuisances)	27th May, 1892.
Removal of Nuisances)	7th Aug., 1888.
Slaughter-houses	16th Oct., 1909.
Common Lodging Houses)	21st Mar 1879.
Common Lodging Houses)	6th Jan., 1880.
Houses not let in Lodgings	27th May 1882.

REGULATIONS MADE WITH RESPECT TO:

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops.

Bye-laws with regard to Tents, Vans & Sheds have been applied for as it has been found that these dwellings without any restrictions are liable to be a nuisance; especially does this apply to those Parishes near the Sea Coast.

Town Police Clauses Act 1847.

Complaints having been received as to persons committing

Nuisances in the streets, the Council applied to the Ministry for powers under the provisions of section 171 of the Public Health Act 1875 in so far as they incorporate or relate to the incorporation of the provisions of Section 28 of the Town Police Clause Act 1847. The Minister made the order investing the Council with Urban powers and such Order came into force on the 10th day of August 1925.

3.) The Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply --- Spilsby & Hundleby. are supplied with water from a well 45 feet deep situated in a field in the parish of Hundleby, and there the water is pumped to a reservoir, having a capacity of 75,000 gallons, on the Raithby Hill, whence it flows by gravitation. These works are the property of the North East Lincolnshire Water Company. There are no mains laid in Boston Road and Reynard Street, where they are urgently required. During the year the Water Company have been asked to extend their mains down Boston Road, and the Council has guaranteed on behalf of the householders a return of 10 per cent on the outlay for a period of three years as required by the Company's Act. Nevertheless, no attempt has been made to comply with this request, the Company simply intimating that they have no money for extensions. I recommend that all means possible be taken to compel the Company to carry out its statutory obligations.

The number of premises at Spilsby supplied from the mains is 190 and at Hundleby, 50. There are no stand pipes.

Wainfleet All Saints. has a supply from the Wainfleet Haven. The water, after passing through filters, is pumped into a reservoir and distributed in the mains to 263 houses in the parish. This same supply is extended to 185 houses in Wainfleet St Mary and to 6 in Friskney.

A part of Winthorpe is supplied with water from the Skegness supply at Welton, 140 houses being connected to the mains. These mains on the way from Welton to Skegness supply 38 houses at Burgh, 7 at Welton, 4 at Boothby, 3 at Orby, and 4 at Croft.

The mains of the Boston Water Works at Revesby as they pass through West Fen supply 4 houses.

The reservoir supplying Alford and Sutton on Sea is situated in the parish of Well, and four houses obtain their supply from this source, as also do 11 at Bilsby and 1 at Ulceby.

There are private supplies at Candleby for 17 houses, Hareby for 8 houses, Skendleby Salter for 6 houses, Harrington for 4 houses and Ulceby for 26 houses.

The above are the principal supplies, but in addition reservoirs and tanks have been constructed and pumping machinery installed in some of the larger farms to ensure an ample and convenient supply of drinking water.

In 1922 the question of a water supply for the Fen portion of the area, where the subsoil is of a non-water bearing character was fully considered and much time spent in trying to solve this difficult problem. Engineers were called to advise and a scheme was prepared for the purchase of the North East Lincolnshire Water Company's undertaking and for the construction of a reservoir, filters and collecting drains at Toynton All Saints, together with necessary mains to supply portions of the parishes of

Toynton All Saints, Toynton St Peters, East Kcail, Stickford, Stickney, West Fen, Midville, Eastville, Thorpe St Peters and Friskney at an estimated cost of £28,900. This scheme was strongly opposed and did not receive the sanction of the Ministry. At their request an alternative pumping scheme to supply a curtailed area was prepared by the Council Sanitary Surveyors. This scheme restricted the area to portions of Toynton All Saints, Toynton St Peters, New Leake, Eastville and Friskney. The estimated cost of this scheme including the purchase of the Spilsby & Hundleby Water Works was £16,462. To assist this scheme financially application for a grant in aid was made to the Unemployment Grants Committee, but it was unsuccessful. An application was also sent to the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries who had obtained sanction from the Treasury to make grants towards the cost of works for the provision & improvement of Water schemes to farms and groups of farms for the alleviation of unemployment; but the Ministry regretted that the character and size of the scheme was such as to preclude them from making a grant in aid. Owing to the heavy cost, the continued opposition and the limited financial resources the Council decided to defer further consideration until a more opportune occasion. The problem therefore still remains unsolved, and the people in the Fen district are dependent upon such rain water as may be collected from the roofs, and when this source fails on water from the dykes and ditches with which the Fen is intersected. It is no doubt difficult for people who possess a good supply of water laid on under pressure to their dwellings to appreciate the serious condition obtaining in the Fen, especially during a dry season. In 1921, owing to the lack of rain, water had to be conveyed in tins and readily sold at 6d the two gallon tin; this price equals £6-5s a thousand gallons or from 60 to 250 times the amount charged to persons who enjoy the benefits of a piped water supply.

The advantages to health and cleanliness, together with the convenience and comfort, of a piped system of water supply are so obviously beneficial to everyone independent of class that I would again urge the re-consideration of this problem, hoping that means may still be found to provide the inhabitants of the Fen villages with an ample supply of pure water.

During the year I have analysed twenty-seven samples of drinking water.

Drainage & Sewerage:- Spilsby & Hundleby have a combined system of sewage disposal, the sewage being dealt with at the disposal works. These works consist of sedimentation tanks and percolating filters. An irrigation area and storm tanks are also provided for dealing with storm water. One man is employed all his time, and the work is satisfactorily carried on and a good affluent is procured.

Wainfleet All Saints sewage is pumped on to land at the sewage outfall and is treated by irrigation. A satisfactory affluent is obtained.

Burgh le Marsh has some of its sewage pumped on to land and treated by irrigation. During the year 1921

yards of 3 inch sub-irrigation pipes and clinkers have been laid in the filter beds which it is hoped will prevent the flooding of the adjoining arable field.

Winthorpe houses on the Roman Bank are connected with the Skegness Urban District Council sewerage system.

Closet accommodation.- The statistics with regard to the types of closet accommodation prevailing in the district are found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report. At Spilsby 154 premises are provided with W.Cs. and at Hundleby 29, the remaining houses still depend on a conservancy method of disposal of night-soil. In 1923 the question of the conversion of privies into water-closets received attention. A sub-committee was appointed to go thoroughly into the matter. This Committee was not in favour of a general scheme of conversion and suggested that no action be taken under Sections 39-42 of the Public Health Amendment Act 1907, being of opinion that the obligation to construct and maintain conveniences in a sanitary condition falls on the owner and perhaps (although in a lesser degree) on the tenant. The sub-committee recommended that each case should be dealt with entirely on its own merits and that the owner of insanitary and improperly constructed privies should be required to provide the necessary remedy at his own cost without any assistance from the local rates. A list of the premises where privies were defective or in too close proximity to dwellings was prepared and those were visited by the Sub-Committee. In some cases the owners were required to remedy the nuisance by the conversion of the privy into a water closet, in others the Sub-committee recommended that the further consideration be deferred for a period of 12 months. During 1925 nothing was done. The advantages of the water carriage system over conservancy methods are unquestionable, and it is hoped that the Council will not hesitate to adopt a scheme so as to secure the methodical conversion of the remaining privies.

Scavenging.- Public scavengers are appointed for Spilsby, Hogsthorpe, Burgh, Wainfleet All Saints and Winthorpe. Weekly collections are now required throughout the year instead of fortnightly from September to March. Leaflets have been distributed requesting householders to burn all combustible refuse.

The following table shows some of the work done by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year:-

Total number of inspections & re-inspections	2702
Cowsheds:- No. on Register	114
No. of Inspections	130
Contravention of Regulations ...	13
Contraventions remedied	13
No. of milch cows (approx.)	569
Dairies & Milkshops:	
No. on Register	46
No. of inspections	46
Contravention of regulations	0
Contraventions remedied	0
Any instance of disease attributable to milk...	0

Bakehouses:-	No. on Register	36
	No. of inspections	36
	No. of underground bakehouses....	0
	Contraventions of Factory Act....	10
	Contraventions remedied	10
Slaughter-houses:-		
	No. on register	26
	No of inspections	355
	Contravention of bye-laws.....	3
	Contraventions remedied.....	3
Unsound food:-	Condemned by Magistrate	Pork 623 lbs.
	Articles surrendered	Beef 3138 lbs
		Mutton 510 lbs
		Pork 234 lbs.
Moveable dwellings:	No inspected	20
	No of nuisances abated ..	2
Offensive trades:-	No. of premises	4
	No. of inspections	4
Water Supply:	Wells sunk	15
	do cleaned	3
	Closed as polluted	1
	New supplies provided	45
	No of samples analysed	27
Closets:-	No. of houses with privy vaults..	3351
	do do pail closets	1524
	No. of pails substituted for vaults	11
	No. of pails repaired	24
	No. of houses with water-closets	504
	No. of W.Cs substituted for dry receptacles	14
	No. do repaired	7
Drains:-	No. examined and tested	147
	No. unstopped, repaired & trapped	36
	Wastepipes, rain waterpipes	
	disconnected & repaired	12
	New soil pipes or ventilated shafts	36
	Drains reconstructed	26
	New lengths of sewers at Ashby Rd & Queen St, Spilsby, and at Hogsthorpe.	
Cesspools:-	No. emptied & cleaned	19
	No. abolished	3
Disinfection:-	Rooms disinfected after infectious disease	56
	do after tuberculosis	24
Ashpits:-	No in district	3719
	No of bins substituted for pits	5
	No of houses using bins	1721
Nuisances:-	No. abated by informal notice ...	287
	No. reported to Council & statutory notice issued	14
<u>Schools:-</u>	The following schools were closed by	

order of the Lindsey Educational Authority on account of the presence of some infectious disease amongst the children: Burgh, Willoughby, Ingoldmells, Partney, Winthorpe, East Kirkby, Brinkhill, Raithby, Bolingbroke, Stickney and Friskney.

East Keel, Friskney & Ingoldmells schools were stoved before being re-opened.

HOUSING.

Housing was becoming a serious question before the War, but since then the difficulty has increased very much and its solution is a very important one if sanitary improvements are to progress. The need for more houses is shown by the fact that houses condemned as unfit for human habitation remain occupied as there are no others for the tenants to move into. Cases of overcrowding remain unabated, and the number of applications received for houses is far in excess of those available. The number of applications received for tenancy of houses, the erection of which has not been commenced, total 36 up to the end of the year. During 1925 forty houses have been built, and of these State assistance was granted to 29. During the quinquennial period now under survey the number of houses erected was:

In 1921	total	96	with State assistance	82
1922	"	53	"	26
1923	"	28	"	17
1924	"	42	"	24
1925	"	40	"	29

giving a total of 259 in five years. Of these 178 received State assistance, showing that little would have been done without its aid..

Since 1919 Legislation has been very active in trying to solve the housing problem and several Acts have been passed for that purpose. In 1919 there was the "Addison Act" which gave power to Local Authorities to raise money for the building of workingclass houses. The loss to the Local Authority was restricted to the product of a penny rate, the remainder being borne by the Exchequer. Provision was also made for the encouragement of building by private enterprise by granting subsidies to owners to a varying amount, but not exceeding £260.

In 1923 the "Chamberlain Act" was passed. This gave the Local Authority power to raise money by loan from the Public Works Loan Commissioners and grant lump sum subsidies up to the equivalent of £6 for 20 years to encourage private enterprise.

In 1924 the "Heatley Act" became law. In it no lump sum subsidy was available, but a yearly grant of £9 a year for 40 years for a dwelling in a non-agricultural parish and £12-10s a year for one in an agricultural parish was granted, subject to special conditions as to letting, &c.

After 1926 and every two years afterwards Ministers are to estimate the expenses likely to be incurred in the

succeeding two years and if they think it expedient make an order altering either the amount of the contributions or the period for which they are to be payable.

Your Council have availed themselves at different times of the provisions of all these Acts and they are to be congratulated on the result of their labours, which has only been obtained at the expense of much time and thought, especially of the Housing Sub-committee. But much more remains to be done before the District can be considered to be satisfactory as regards the provision of suitable dwellings for its inhabitants. It is estimated that 60 new houses are required each year to meet the needs of the population and maintain a reasonable standard of housing accommodation..

Under the "Addison Act" fifty-four houses were erected at a cost of £45,543. Although sites were selected for the erection of 174 houses scattered throughout the various parishes of this large district, and tenders were received for 116, the work was not completed because the whole scheme was abandoned by the Government as the calls upon the Exchequer proved too heavy. The fifty-four which were completed were:--

4	at Toynton All Saints
4	" Stickney
4	" Midville
4	" New Leake
4	" Eastville
6	" Halton Holgate
4	" Burgh le Marsh
4	" Croft
4	" Wainfleet All Saints
8	" Wainfleet St Mary
8	" Friskney

Subsidies amounting to £4071 were granted in respect of twenty houses erected by private enterprise.

Under the "Chamberlain Act" the Council have availed themselves of every legitimate means to encourage the erection of houses by private enterprise and have obtained from the Ministry sanction to grant lump sum subsidies under the prescribed conditions up to a total of 120 houses. The building position under this Act at the end of 1925 was:

	Plans App.	Foundations completed	Roofed in.	Completed.
Parlour	62	53	46	34
Non-Parlour	26	25	23	19
	<u>88</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>53</u>

£3850 is the amount actually paid out in subsidies up to December, 1925. This sum does not include the subsidies which were paid under the Housing (Additional Powers) Act 1919.

The granting of a lump sum subsidy of £75 only produced forty-five houses, and to accelerate the construction of houses by private enterprise the Council increased this amount to £100. The amount over and above the equivalent of 26 a year for 20 years being paid out of the rates.

Under the "Wheatley" Act a scheme has been formulated for the erection of 100 houses in the following Parishes:-

6	at Eastville
6	" Toynton St Peters.
2	" Stickford
2	" West Fen
2	" Bolingbroke
3	" Friskney
2	" Wainfleet St Mary
4	" Huttoft
2	" Langton
2	" Partney
2	" Sorenby.
3	" Handleby.
6	" Eilsby.
2	" Ulceby.
6	" Firsby.
2	" Great Steeping
2	" Little Steeping.
2	" Stickleby.
4	" Addelethorpe or Ingoldmells
4	" Croft
4	" Hogsthorpe
2	" Orby.
2	" Thorpe
6	" Welton
4	" Willoughby
3	" Wainfleet All Saints.

Sites having been purchased under the Addison Act in the parishes of Croft, Friskney, Eastville, Handleby, Bolingbroke, Stickford, Thorpe, Toynton All Saints, Wainfleet St Mary, and Willoughby, it was decided to utilise these sites, crediting the 1919 scheme with their value as ascertained by the Official Valuer and debiting the 1924 scheme with the amount. Tenders were invited and eventually that of Messrs G Horton & Son, Newcastle, of £7,960 was accepted for the erection of 2 houses at Bolingbroke, 6 at Eastville, 2 at Stickford, 6 at Toynton St Peters, 2 at West Fen; and that of Messrs Vamplew Bros, of Friskney, to erect 2 at Friskney for £810 and 2 at Wainfleet St Mary for £825. These contracts have been signed, and it is hoped that these 22 houses will be completed and ready for occupation before the end of 1926. The Council being in possession of other sites tenders have been invited for the construction of 4 houses at Croft, 2 at Thorpe, 4 at Friskney, 4 at Willoughby, and 8 at Handleby. Negotiations are proceeding for the acquisition of further sites to complete the Council's present scheme.

Under this Act an agricultural parish is any civil

parish which at the beginning of the financial year in which a proposal for the provision of houses is approved is where:

- (1) the net annual value of the agricultural land in the parish as shown in the County rate basis then in force exceeds 25 per cent of the total net annual value of that parish; and
- (2) the population of the parish according to the last published census return is less than 50 persons per 100 acres. All the parishes in this District are agricultural parishes except Spilsby and Wainfleet All Saints.

The following table of Housing Statistics for 1925 is required by the Ministry of Health:

Number of new houses erected during the year	42
(a) total including (b)	40
(b) with state assistance	
(1) By the Local Authority	
(2) By other Bodies or persons.	
1. Unfit dwelling-houses:	
Inspection - (1) Total no. of dwelling houses inspected for defects	292
(2) No. inspected & recorded ..	155
(3) No. found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	4
(4) No. found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	113
2. Remedy of defects with service of formal notice	
No. rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority	111
3. Action under Statutory Powers:	
A.- Proceedings under Section 3 Housing Act 1925.	
1. No. in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	4
2. No. which were rendered fit after service	
(a) By owners	-
(b) By Local Authority in default -	
3. No. in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close..	1
B.- Proceedings under Public Health Acts	
1. No. in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5

(13.)

- (2) No. in which defects were remedied
 - (a) By owners 1
 - (b) By Local Authority in default.

C. Proceedings under secs.11,14.15 Housing Act /25.

- (1) No. of representations made with a view to closing..... 3
- (2) No. of closing orders made 3
- (3) No. in respect of which closing orders were determined -
- (4) No. in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1
- (5) No. demolished in pursuance of demolition orders -

.....

5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK.- There are no licensed purveyors of Graded or certified milk within the District. The number of milch cows and the number of inspections of cowsheds are given in the Inspector's table (pages 7-8). The inspections show that although there is a gradual improvement in the condition of the cowsheds and the manner in which they are kept, much more requires to be done with respect to cleanliness of sheds, removal of manure, and the cleansing of udders before we can report them satisfactory in every respect. Leaflets giving instructions as to keeping the cattle, buildings and utensils clean have been distributed to all registered cowkeepers and Purveyors of milk. At the beginning of the year on the application of your Officials the Council decided to permit the engagement of Veterinary Surgeons when necessary for the purpose of examining and certifying with respect to milch cows known or believed to be diseased, emaciated or unhealthy.

The Milk & Dairies (Consolidation) Act 1915 came into operation on Sept. 1st 1925. In it the sale of tuberculosis milk is prohibited and powers are conferred on Local Authorities to stop the supply of Milk likely to cause tuberculosis. If the Medical Officer of Health has reason to suspect that tuberculosis is caused or likely to be caused by the consumption of any milk it is his duty to notify the County Medical Officer of Health who will cause the cattle in the dairy to be inspected.

The Tuberculosis Order 1925 issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is administered by the County Council, and in it provision is made for notice of intention to slaughter an animal in pursuance of the Order, to be given to the Sanitary Authority before the carcass or any part thereof should be disposed of for human consumption; and no part of the carcass is to be removed from the premises except with the written permission of the Council's Sanitary Officers.

The Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis)

Regulations 1925 invest the Council with powers to prevent a person who is aware that he is suffering from tuberculosis of the respiratory tract and is in an infectious state from any employment which would involve the milking of cows or the handling of vessels used for containing milk. So far no action has been taken under these regulations.

MEAT.- The Slaughter Houses Order 1924 came into operation on January 1, 1925, and provides that no place may be used for slaughtering animals for sale without being licensed. The Council had many years previously adopted bye-laws with respect to slaughter-houses, and the order came into force with the minimum amount of disturbance. The number of slaughter-houses was:

	1920	Jan.1925	Dec.1925
Registered	1	1	-
Licensed	20	27	26

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 came into operation on Apl.1/25 and have cast a great deal of work and responsibility upon your Sanitary Officers. No person may now slaughter an animal for sale for human consumption unless he has given three hours notice of the time and place of slaughter. In a district such as this with no public abattoir, and where animals are killed in 26 slaughter-houses it was apparent that mutual good-will and co-operation between the Council's Officials and the Butchers was necessary to ensure the smooth working of these regulations. Accordingly, a meeting with the members of the Local Butchers' Association was arranged in February when a discussion and exchange of views took place, and it is gratifying to state that the Butchers have loyally endeavoured to comply with the regulations and we gladly acknowledge their aid in the successful administration of the rather drastic but very desirable regulations. Each butcher has a licensed slaughter-house and a shop. There are also three shops for the sale of imported meat, and three purveyors regularly sell either on Saturdays or Mondays from stalls and vans. During the year there have been no less than 355 inspections of slaughter-houses, and the total weight of meat condemned as unfit for human food was 9905 lbs.

6.)

Infectious Diseases.

Scarlet Fever.- There were 35 notifications of this disease received during the year, but the only real epidemic was at Friskney in February and its extension to Wainfleet in May. The remaining cases were isolated.

Diphtheria.- Only six cases of diphtheria were notified, and excepting an isolated case at Anderby and one in Friskney the remainder occurred in one house in Winthorpe in November.

Enteric Fever.- In September two children in New Leake were notified as suffering from Enteric Fever. The water supply was from various sources as at that time of the year the rain water cisterns, which is the principal supply for the inhabitants, were getting empty. A case notified

as Para-typhoid occurred in Spilsby in November, but the cause could not definitely be determined.

Measles.- This disease was not prevalent until the end of the year when it appeared at Ingoldmells and Friskney, causing such a poor attendance at the Elementary Schools that they were closed by the Lindsey Educational Authority.

Mumps.- This disease was very prevalent in many villages and interfered with the attendance at many schools. Burgh, Bolingbroke and Partney were closed.

Encephalitis Lethargica.- This obscure disease was notified three times, but the cases had no connection with one another, occurring as they did at Thorpe, Stickford, and Great Steeping.

Pneumonia, Malaria, Erysipelas and anterior polio-myelitis were each notified. Excepting one case of Encephalitis Lethargica none of the other infectious diseases proved fatal.

The case rate of the following infectious diseases notified during the 52 weeks ended 2nd Jan 1926 per 1,000 living is:-

	Small Pox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria.
For England & Wales	0.14	2.36	1.23
Spilsby Rural District	0.00	1.76	0.302
	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas
England & Wales	0.07	0.06	0.39
Spilsby Rural District	0.15	0.00	0.05

Tuberculosis.- This disease has been notified 34 times during the year: 27 of them referred to tuberculosis of the lungs and 7 to the disease in other parts of the body. Eleven persons died from consumption, one from tubercular peritonitis, one from tubercular meningitis. The deaths from consumption averaged 18 for the last 5 years. The following table is asked for by the Ministry:

Age Period.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	1
20	1	7	-	1	1	1	-	-
25	4	7	1	1	1	3	-	1
35	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
66 &	-	1	-	-	0	1	-	-
upwards	7:20:		1: 6		4: 7:		0: 2	

A County Laboratory for the bacteriological detection of suspected cases of diphtheria, typhoid fever, and tuberculosis, has been established at Lincoln since 1912 under the

superintendence of Dr Ashleigh Glegg, Medical Officer of Health for Lindsey, and has proved to be a great assistance to Medical Officers and Medical Practitioners.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops & Workplaces.

Premises	:Inspections:	Number of Written: Occupiers Notices: prosecuted.		
Factories (including Laundries)	: 8	: -	: -	
Workshops (including workshop laundries)	: 135	: -	: -	
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	: -	: -	: -	
Total	: 143	: -	: -	

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops & Workplaces.

Particulars	No. of defects			No. of
	: Found:	: Remedied:	: Referred to:	: offences
		: H.M.	: Inspector	: Prosecutions
				: instituted
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts	: 25	: 25	:	:
Want of ventilation	:	:	:	:
Overcrowding	:	:	:	:
Want of drainage of floors	:	:	:	:
Other nuisances	: 5	: 5	:	:
Total.	: 30	: 30	:	:

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This is the fortieth annual report that it has been my ~~privilege~~ privilege and pleasure to present to the Sanitary Authority. I became Medical Officer of Health before County & District Councils were created, and my appointment was made by the Guardians of the Spilsby Union acting as the Sanitary authority of the District. There was at that time no compulsory notification of infectious diseases; the registration of dairies, cowsheds, slaughterhouses and bakehouses did not exist. No concerted action was taken with regard to the prevention and cure of consumption, and the provision of houses was a private affair between a landlord and tenant. Since my appointment the Infectious Diseases Notification Act has been passed (1889), the registration and inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops has been transferred from the Privy Council to the Sanitary Authority. The Factory & Workshop Act came into force in 1901. Tuberculosis has been seriously taken in hand by the passing of regulations in 1901, extended in 1909 and again in 1911 and 1912. Sanatoria for institutional

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treatment have been established in many parts of England. The subject of Housing and Town Planning was started in 1909 and has been extended, especially since the War by the passing of the Acts in 1919, 1923, 1924 & 1925. During my term of office Spilsby, Hundleby, Wainfleet & Sutton have had complete systems of sewage disposal installed and have also had a public water supply. Many advances have been made in Sanitary Science, especially in Bacteriology. By it we are greatly aided in the diagnosis of Diphtheria, Enteric Fever and Tuberculosis, and Sera and Vaccines have opened up a new line of prevention and treatment. The Legislature has endeavoured to keep pace with these advances of knowledge, and has passed many Acts which have for their object the improvement of health, and the prevention of disease.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Francis J. Walker.

Spilsby, 25.3.26.

